

City of Sunnyvale

# **Sunnyvale Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance**

## *Draft* **Environmental Impact Report**

**SCH #2011062032**



**August 2011**

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Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance**

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SCH #2011062032

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*August 2011*

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# Sunnyvale Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance EIR

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This section summarizes the characteristics of the proposed ordinance and the significant environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and residual impacts associated with the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance.

### **PROJECT SYNOPSIS**

#### **Project Sponsor**

City of Sunnyvale  
Department of Utilities  
456 West Olive Avenue  
P.O. Box 3707  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

#### **Project Characteristics**

The City of Sunnyvale proposes to adopt a Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance that would: (1) prohibit three specified categories of retail establishments in Sunnyvale from providing “single-use plastic carryout bags” to customers at the point of sale; and (2) create a mandatory 15 cent (\$0.15) charge for each paper bag distributed by stores in the City. As defined by the Ordinance (see Appendix A), a “store” means any of the following establishments within the City limits of Sunnyvale:

- (1) A full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of two million dollars (\$2,000,000), or more, that sells a line of dry grocery, canned goods, or nonfood items and some perishable items;
- (2) A store of at least 10,000 square feet of retail space that sells any perishable or non-perishable goods, including, but not limited to, clothing, food, or personal items, and generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law (Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 7200) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code); or
- (3) A drug store, pharmacy, supermarket, grocery store, convenience food store, foodmart, or other entity engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods that includes milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, including those stores with a Type 20 or 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The intent of the ordinance is to reduce the environmental impacts related to the use of single-use carryout bags, and to promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags. It is anticipated that by prohibiting single-use plastic carryout bags and requiring a mandatory charge for each paper bag distributed by retailers, the proposed ordinance would reduce the amount of single-use bags within the City, while promoting a shift to the use of reusable bags by Sunnyvale retail customers.





Single-Use plastic carryout bags are defined as bags made from petroleum or bio-based plastic (i.e., bags made with at least 90% starch from renewable resources such as corn, potato, tapioca, or wheat, or from polyesters, manufactured from hydrocarbons, or starch-polyester blends) that are less than 2.25 mils thick. The proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would prohibit retailers from distributing both petroleum and bio-based single-use carryout plastic bags at the point of sale. The proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would not prohibit the distribution of plastic “product bags”, as defined, which includes bags without handles provided to a customer (1) to carry produce, meats, or other food items to the point of sale inside a store; (2) to hold prescription medication dispensed from a pharmacy; or (3) to protect food or merchandise from being damaged or contaminated by other food or merchandise when items are placed together in a reusable bag or recyclable paper carryout bag; or (4) a bag without handles that is designed to be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger. The ordinance would not apply to stores of less than 10,000 square feet that are not included in one of the three specified categories. It would not apply to restaurants and other food service providers, allowing them to provide plastic bags to customers for prepared take-out food intended for consumption off of the food provider’s premises.

The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would also impose a mandatory charge on paper carryout bags at Sunnyvale stores covered by the ordinance, including grocery stores, convenience stores, mini-marts, liquor stores, pharmacies, department stores, stores that sell durable goods, and clothing stores. It is anticipated that the mandatory charge would be \$0.15 (fifteen cents) per paper bag. This charge would be retained by the affected stores to offset the costs of providing paper bags. The mandatory charge is intended to provide a disincentive to customers to request paper bags when shopping at regulated stores and is intended to promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags by Sunnyvale consumers.

The mandatory charge would charge customers for each paper carryout bag provided by the affected stores. Revenues generated from the charge would be used to compensate the affected stores for increased costs related to compliance with the ordinance, actual costs associated with providing recyclable paper carryout bags or reusable bags, or costs associated with a store’s educational materials or education campaign encouraging the use of reusable bags. Stores would be required to indicate on the customer receipt the number of paper carryout bags provided and the total amount of the mandatory charge. The stores would be required to report to the Director of Utilities, on a quarterly basis, the total number of recyclable paper carryout bags provided, the total amount of monies collected for providing recyclable paper carryout bags, and a summary of any efforts a store has undertaken to promote the use of reusable bags by customers in the prior quarter.

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The City’s objectives for the proposed ordinance include:

- *Reducing the number of single-use plastic distributed by retailers and used by customers in Sunnyvale*
- *Detering the use of paper bags by customers in Sunnyvale*
- *Promoting a shift toward the use of reusable carryout bags by retail customers in Sunnyvale*



- *Reducing the environmental impacts related to single-use plastic carryout bags, such as impacts to biological resources (including marine environments), water quality and utilities (solid waste)*
- *Avoiding litter and the associated adverse impacts to stormwater systems, aesthetics and the marine environment (San Francisco Bay)*

## **ALTERNATIVES**

As required by CEQA, the EIR examines a range of alternatives to the proposed project that feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives. These alternatives are described and evaluated in Section 6.0, *Alternatives*. Studied alternatives include:

- ***Alternative 1: No Project*** - *The no project alternative assumes that the Sunnyvale Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would not occur. The existing retail stores would continue to provide single-use plastic bags and would continue to provide single-use paper bags free of charge to the customers.*
- ***Alternative 2: Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags at all Retail Establishments*** - *This alternative would prohibit all retail establishments in Sunnyvale from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale, including restaurants and other retailers not covered by the proposed ordinance.*
- ***Alternative 3: Mandatory Charge of \$0.25 for Paper Bags*** - *This alternative would continue to prohibit three specified categories of retail establishments in Sunnyvale from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale, but would increase the mandatory charge for single-use paper bags from \$0.15 to \$0.25.*
- ***Alternative 4: Mandatory Charge of \$0.10 for Paper Bags*** - *This alternative would continue to prohibit three specified categories of retail establishments in Sunnyvale from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale, but would reduce the mandatory charge for single-use paper bags from \$0.15 to \$0.10.*

## **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Table ES-1 includes a brief description of the environmental issues relative to the proposed ordinance, the identified significant environmental impacts, proposed mitigation measures, and residual impacts. Impacts are categorized by classes. Class I impacts are defined as significant, unavoidable adverse impacts which require a statement of overriding considerations to be issued pursuant to the *CEQA Guidelines* §15093 if the project is approved. Class II impacts are significant adverse impacts that can be feasibly mitigated to less than significant levels and which require findings to be made under Section 15091 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. Class III impacts are considered less than significant impacts, and Class IV impacts are beneficial impacts.

<b>Table ES-1</b> <b>Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts,</b> <b>Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>		
<b>Impact AQ-1</b> A shift toward reusable bags could potentially alter processing activities related to bag production which has the potential to increase air emissions. However, the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance is expected to substantially reduce the number of single-use plastic carryout bags, thereby reducing the amount of total bags manufactured and overall emissions associated with bag manufacture and use. Therefore, air quality impacts related to alteration of processing activities would be Class IV, <i>beneficial</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be beneficial without mitigation.
<b>Impact AQ-2</b> Implementation of the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would generate air pollutant emissions associated with an incremental increase in truck trips to deliver paper and reusable carryout bags to local retailers. However, emissions would not exceed BAAQMD operational significance thresholds. Therefore, operational air quality impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Impact BIO-1</b> The proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would incrementally increase the number of paper and reusable bags within Sunnyvale. However, the reduction in the amount of single-use plastic bags would be expected to incrementally reduce the amount of litter entering coastal and marine habitats, thus reducing litter-related impacts to sensitive species. This is a Class IV, <i>beneficial</i> , effect.	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be beneficial without mitigation.
<b>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b>		
<b>Impact GHG-1</b> The proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would reduce the amount of single-use carryout bags in Sunnyvale and promote reusable bags, which are intended to be used multiple times. Implementation of the proposed Ordinance would incrementally increase GHG emissions compared	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation.

<b>Table ES-1</b> <b>Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts,</b> <b>Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
to existing conditions. However, emissions would not exceed BAAQMD thresholds and would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .		
<b>HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY</b>		
<b>Impact HWQ-1</b> Although the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would incrementally increase the number of single-use paper and reusable bags used in Sunnyvale, the overall reduction in the total amount of carryout bags would incrementally reduce the amount of litter and waste entering storm drains, improving water quality. This would be a Class IV, <i>beneficial</i> , effect.	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be beneficial without mitigation.
<b>Impact HWQ-2</b> A shift toward reusable bags could potentially alter processing activities related to bag production, which could potentially degrade water quality in some instances and locations. However, bag manufacturers would be required to adhere to existing regulations including NPDES Permit requirements, AB 258 and the California Health and Safety Code. Therefore, impacts to water quality from altering bag processing activities would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.
<b>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</b>		
<b>Impact U-1</b> The increase of reusable bags within Sunnyvale as a result of the Ordinance would increase water demand related to washing reusable bags. However, sufficient water supplies are available to meet the demand created by reusable bags. Therefore, water supply impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.
<b>Impact U-2</b> Water use associated with washing reusable bags would increase wastewater generation in the City. However, projected wastewater flows would remain within the capacity of the City's wastewater	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.

**Table ES-1**  
**Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts,**  
**Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts**

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
collection and treatment system, and would not exceed applicable wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB. Impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .		
<b>Impact U-3</b> The proposed Ordinance would alter the solid waste generation associated with bag use in Sunnyvale. However, projected future solid waste generation would remain within the capacity of local landfills. Impacts would therefore be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Sunnyvale Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance. The Ordinance would prohibit specified retail establishments in Sunnyvale from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale, and would create a mandatory 15 cent (\$0.15) charge for each paper bag distributed by these stores. The intent of the Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance is to reduce the amount of single-use carryout bags, and to promote the use of reusable bags by Sunnyvale retail customers. The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would apply to three specified categories of retail establishments located within the City of Sunnyvale's corporate limits, including: (1) A full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of two million dollars (\$2,000,000), or more, that sells a line of dry grocery, canned goods, or nonfood items and some perishable items; (2) A store of at least 10,000 square feet of retail space that sells any perishable or non-perishable goods, including, but not limited to, clothing, food, or personal items, and generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law [Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 7200) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code]; or (3) A drug store, pharmacy, supermarket, grocery store, convenience food store, foodmart, or other entity engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods that includes milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, including those stores with a Type 20 or 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The Ordinance is described in greater detail in Section 2.0, *Project Description*. This section discusses:

- *The project background;*
- *The legal basis for preparing an EIR;*
- *The scope and content of the EIR;*
- *Lead, responsible, and trustee agencies; and*
- *The environmental review process required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).*

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In response to concerns regarding the environmental impacts related to single-use carryout bags, the City of Sunnyvale City Council on November 16, 2010, directed city staff to prepare a Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance that:

- Bans the distribution of all single-use carryout bags
- Applies the ban to:
  - Large Supermarkets and Pharmacies >10,000 square feet
  - Other Large Retailers
  - Other Food and Beverage Stores
- Allows an exception to the ban if retailers package customer purchases in Green Paper Bags (bags containing at least 40% recycled paper content), so long as the retailer charges the customer a separately displayed mandatory charge of at least fifteen cents per bag, with 100% of the charge to be retained by the retailer
- Takes effect on the second Wednesday of a month no less than six months following second reading of the ordinance

- Exempts from the mandatory charge customers participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and customers participating in the Supplemental Food Program (food stamps)
- In its definitions considers the size and thickness of bags and specifies that bags provided should have toxic-free content and a preference for bags made in the US
- Considers covering all retailers

City staff has prepared a draft Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance consistent with the Council's direction as listed above. This document is an EIR analyzing the proposed ordinance's environmental impact in accordance with CEQA.

A number of cities and counties have considered or passed similar ordinances within their respective jurisdictions. These include, but are not limited to: the City of San Francisco, the City of Seattle, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Berkeley, the City of San Jose, the City of Manhattan Beach, the City of Palo Alto, Marin County, the City of Malibu, the City of Santa Monica, Santa Clara County, and the City of Long Beach.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR was prepared for the proposed ordinance and distributed on June 8, 2011 for agency and public review for a 30-day review period. The City received letters from Save the Bay and the Native American Heritage Commission in response to the NOP. The City also conducted three public scoping meetings during the NOP comment period, which took place on June 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., June 29, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., and June 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Table 1-1 below lists the environmental topics of concern received in the comment letters and discussed at the public scoping sessions. The NOP and Initial Study prepared for the project are presented in Appendix A.

**Table 1-1  
Scoping Comments**

<b>Responder</b>	<b>Subject and Where Comments Addressed</b>
Katy Sanchez, Program Analyst, Native American Heritage Commission	The commenter describes the appropriate actions for determining an area of potential effect (APE), conducting an archaeological inventory survey, and applying the appropriate mitigation. As stated in the Initial Study (Appendix A), the proposed ordinance would not involve any ground-disturbing activities, such as excavation or construction activities. As such, the proposed ordinance would have no impacts on cultural or historic resources.
David Lewis, Executive Director, Save the Bay	The commenter suggests that the proposed ordinance apply to all retailers, similar to the ordinance adopted in the City of San Jose. An alternative which would apply to all retailers is included in Section 6.0, <i>Alternatives</i> (Alternative 2).  The commenter additionally suggests that the definition of single-use bag be revised. The full ordinance language is included in the EIR as Appendix D.
Scoping Meeting Comment	A commenter suggested an alternative to consider, in which plastic bags would be included as part of the City's curbside recycling program. As noted in Section 6.0, <i>Alternatives</i> , this alternative was considered, but rejected because it does not

**Table 1-1  
Scoping Comments**

<b>Responder</b>	<b>Subject and Where Comments Addressed</b>
	achieve the Ordinance's objectives.
Scoping Meeting Comment	A commenter suggested an alternative to consider, in which a fee would be applied to single-use plastic bags, rather than banning them all together. As noted in Section 6.0, <i>Alternatives</i> , this alternative was considered, but rejected because it would be legally infeasible pursuant to California Assembly Bill (AB) 2449, which forbids cities from requiring stores to charge a fee for single-use plastic bags.
Scoping Meeting Comment	<p>A commenter suggested that the by banning plastic grocery bags, people will need to buy plastic bags for bin liners, dog excrement, and other uses to replace plastic carryout bags.</p> <p>This opinion is noted and will be considered by City decision makers as they review the project. However, the comment expresses concern about a potential economic impact of the proposed project, which is not CEQA's purview. The purpose of the EIR is to address the project's environmental effects, not its economic effects. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(e) specifically states that "economic and social changes resulting from a project shall not be treated as significant effects on the environment."</p>
Scoping Meeting Comment	A commenter noted that many customers do not wash their reusable bags on a regular basis and suggested that the City provide education to customers regarding regular washing to promote hygiene. While the proposed ordinance would promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags, periodic washing of reusable bags for hygienic purposes would be the responsibility of the individual customers. As required by the proposed Ordinance (see Appendix D), reusable bags are required to be machine washable or made from a material that can be cleaned or disinfected. Regarding the City providing an education program, this comment will be forwarded to the City's decision makers.

## 1.2 PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

The proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance requires the discretionary approval of the City of Sunnyvale City Council. Therefore, it is subject to the requirements of CEQA. In accordance with Section 15121 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, the purpose of this EIR is to serve as an informational document that:

*...will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project.*





This EIR has been prepared as a Project EIR pursuant to Section 15161 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. A Project EIR is appropriate for a specific development project. As stated in the *CEQA Guidelines*:

*This type of EIR should focus primarily on the changes in the environment that would result from the development project. The EIR shall examine all phases of the project, including planning, construction, and operation.*

This EIR is to serve as an informational document for the public and City of Sunnyvale decision-makers. The process will culminate with City Council hearings to consider certification of a Final EIR and approval of the ordinance. Section 2.6 in Section 2.0, *Project Description*, provides a detailed description of approvals that may be necessary for the proposed project.

### **1.3 SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This EIR addresses the issues that the City of Sunnyvale determined could potentially have significant effects. The issues addressed in this EIR include:

- *Air Quality*
- *Biological Resources*
- *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*
- *Hydrology/Water Quality*
- *Utilities and Service Systems*

This EIR addresses the issue areas referenced above that were identified in an Initial Study as having potentially significant environmental impacts. The Initial Study is included in Appendix A.

The EIR references pertinent City policies and guidelines, certified EIRs and other adopted CEQA documents, and background documents prepared by the City in preparing the proposed Ordinance. A full reference list is contained in Section 7.0, *References and Report Preparers*.

The alternatives section of the EIR (Section 6.0) was prepared in accordance with Section 15126.6 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. The alternatives discussion evaluates the CEQA-required “no project” alternative and three alternative scenarios for the Ordinance. It also identifies the environmentally superior alternative among the alternatives assessed.

The level of detail contained throughout this EIR is consistent with the requirements of CEQA and applicable court decisions. The *CEQA Guidelines* provide the standard of adequacy on which this document is based. The *CEQA Guidelines* state:

*An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of the proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not*

*make an EIR inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts. The courts have looked not for perfection, but for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure. (Section 15151)*

## **1.4 LEAD, RESPONSIBLE, AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES**

The *CEQA Guidelines* define lead, responsible and trustee agencies. The City of Sunnyvale is the lead agency for the project because it holds principal responsibility for approving the ordinance.

A responsible agency refers to a public agency other than the lead agency that has discretionary approval over the project, and a trustee agency refers to a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project. There are no responsible or trustee agencies for the proposed project.

## **1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The major steps in the environmental review process, as required under CEQA, are outlined below. The steps are presented in sequential order.

1. **Notice of Preparation (NOP).** After deciding that an EIR is required, the lead agency must file an NOP soliciting input on the EIR scope to the State Clearinghouse, other concerned agencies, and parties previously requesting notice in writing (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15082; Public Resources Code Section 21092.2). The NOP must be posted in the County Clerk's office for 30 days. The NOP may be accompanied by an Initial Study that identifies the issue areas for which the proposed project could create significant environmental impacts.
2. **Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).** The DEIR must contain:
  - a) Table of contents or index;
  - b) Summary;
  - c) Project description;
  - d) Environmental setting;
  - e) Discussion of significant impacts (direct, indirect, cumulative, growth-inducing and unavoidable impacts);
  - f) Discussion of alternatives;
  - g) Mitigation measures; and
  - h) Discussion of irreversible changes.
3. **Notice of Completion/Notice of Availability of Draft EIR.** A lead agency must file a Notice of Completion with the State Clearinghouse when it completes a Draft EIR and prepare a Public Notice of Availability for the Draft EIR. The lead agency must place the Notice in the County Clerk's office for 45 days (Public Resources Code Section 21092) and send a copy of the Notice to anyone requesting it (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15087). Additionally, public notice of DEIR availability must be given through at least one of the following procedures: a) publication in a newspaper of general circulation; b) posting on and off the project site; and c) direct mailing to owners and occupants of contiguous

properties. The lead agency must solicit input from other agencies and the public, and respond in writing to all comments received (Public Resources Code Sections 21104 and 21253). The minimum public review period for a DEIR is 30 days. When a Draft EIR is sent to the State Clearinghouse for review, the public review period must be 45 days unless the Clearinghouse (Public Resources Code 21091) approves a shorter period.

4. **Final EIR.** A Final EIR must include: a) the Draft EIR; b) copies of comments received during public review; c) list of persons and entities commenting; and d) responses to comments.
5. **Certification of FEIR.** Prior to making a decision on a proposed project, the lead agency must certify that: a) the FEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA; b) the Final EIR was presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency; and c) the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information in the Final EIR prior to approving a project (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15090).
6. **Lead Agency Project Decision.** A lead agency may: a) disapprove a project because of its significant environmental effects; b) require changes to a project to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects; or c) approve a project despite its significant environmental effects, if the proper findings and statement of overriding considerations are adopted (*CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15042 and 15043).
7. **Findings/Statement of Overriding Considerations.** For each significant impact of the project identified in the EIR, the lead or responsible agency must find, based on substantial evidence, that either: a) the project has been changed to avoid or substantially reduce the magnitude of the impact; b) changes to the project are within another agency's jurisdiction and such changes have or should be adopted; or c) specific economic, social, or other considerations make the mitigation measures or project alternatives infeasible (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15091). If an agency approves a project with unavoidable significant environmental effects, it must prepare a written Statement of Overriding Considerations that sets forth the specific social, economic, or other reasons supporting the agency's decision.
8. **Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program.** When an agency makes findings on significant effects identified in the EIR, it must adopt a reporting or monitoring program for mitigation measures that were adopted or made conditions of project approval to mitigate significant effects.
9. **Notice of Determination.** An agency must file a Notice of Determination after deciding to approve a project for which an EIR is prepared (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15094). A local agency must file the Notice with the County Clerk. The Notice must be posted for 30 days and sent to anyone previously requesting notice. Posting of the Notice starts a 30-day statute of limitations on CEQA legal challenges (Public Resources Code Section 21167[c]).

## **2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This section describes the proposed project, including information about the project applicant, project location, a description of the major project characteristics, project objectives, and a list of discretionary approvals needed for project approval.

### **2.1 PROJECT APPLICANT**

City of Sunnyvale  
Department of Utilities  
456 West Olive Avenue  
P.O. Box 3707  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

### **2.2 PROJECT LOCATION**

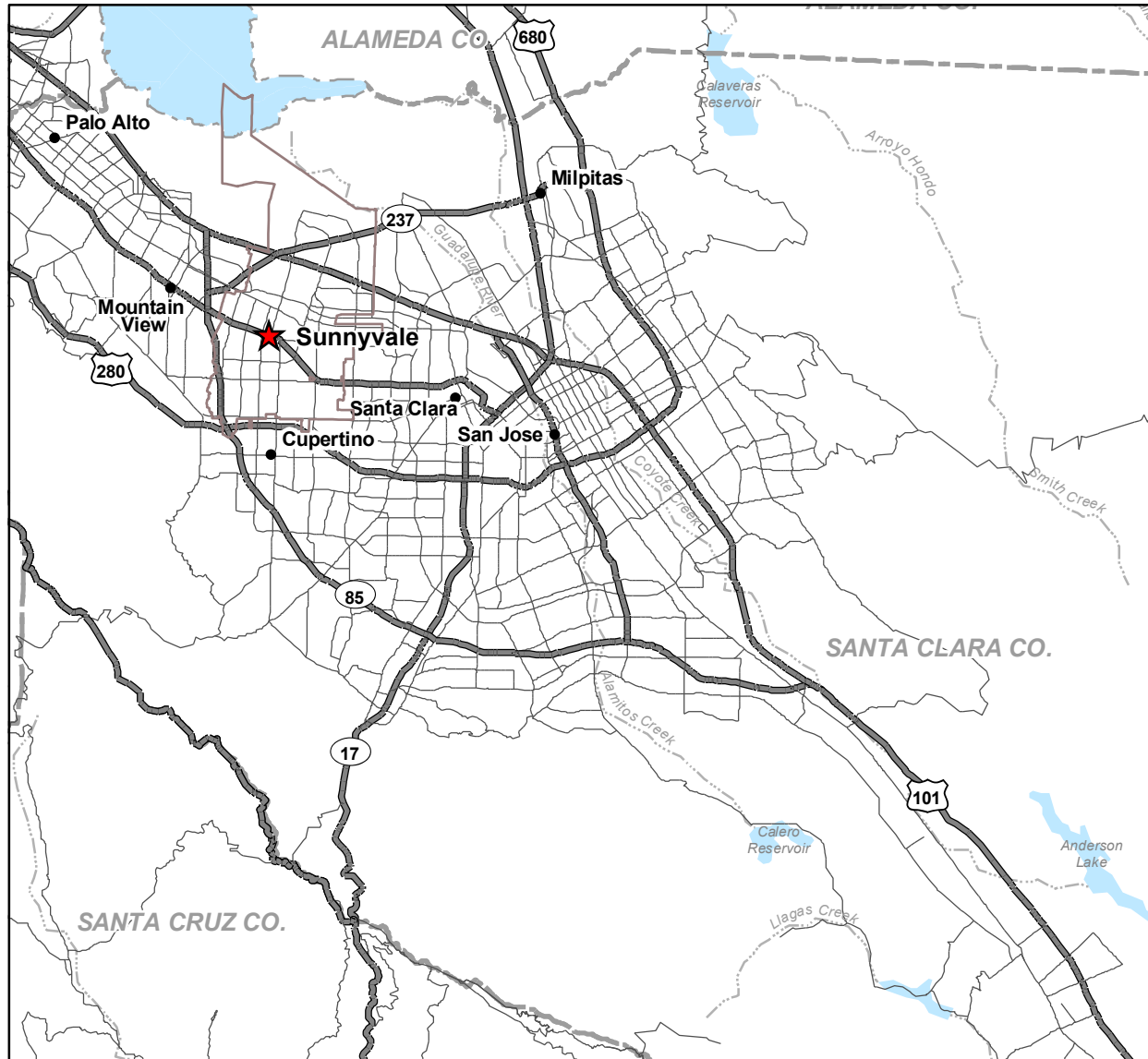
The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would apply to three specified categories of retail establishments located within the City of Sunnyvale's corporate limits. Sunnyvale is located in Santa Clara County and is approximately 24 square miles in size. The City is bounded to the north by the cities of San Jose and Fremont and Moffett Federal Airfield, to the west by the cities of Mountain View and Los Altos, to the south by the City of Cupertino, and to the east by the City of Santa Clara. Sunnyvale is almost entirely developed, with only 0.5% of parcels currently vacant. Sunnyvale contains a variety of land uses, including residential (single- and multi-family), commercial, industrial, office, and public facilities. Figure 2-1 illustrates the location of Sunnyvale in its regional context, and Figure 2-2 shows an aerial of the City and surrounding communities.

### **2.3 EXISTING CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **2.3.1 Carryout Bags in Sunnyvale**

In response to concerns regarding the environmental impacts related to single-use carryout bags, on November 16, 2010 the Sunnyvale City Council directed City staff to prepare a Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance. Based on existing conditions, the proposed ordinance would apply to approximately 99 retailers in Sunnyvale including 20 large supermarkets and pharmacies (over 10,000 square feet); 15 other large retailers (over 10,000 square feet) such as department stores, big box stores, and sporting goods stores; and 64 food and beverage stores. A list of store categories is included in Appendix D.

Types of Carryout Bags. Single-use disposable plastic grocery bags are typically made of thin, lightweight high density polyethylene (HDPE) (Hyder Consulting, 2007). For consumers, they offer a hygienic, odorless, waterproof and sturdy carrying sack, but are intended for one use before disposal. Currently, almost 20 billion of these plastic grocery bags



0 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles



★ Project Location

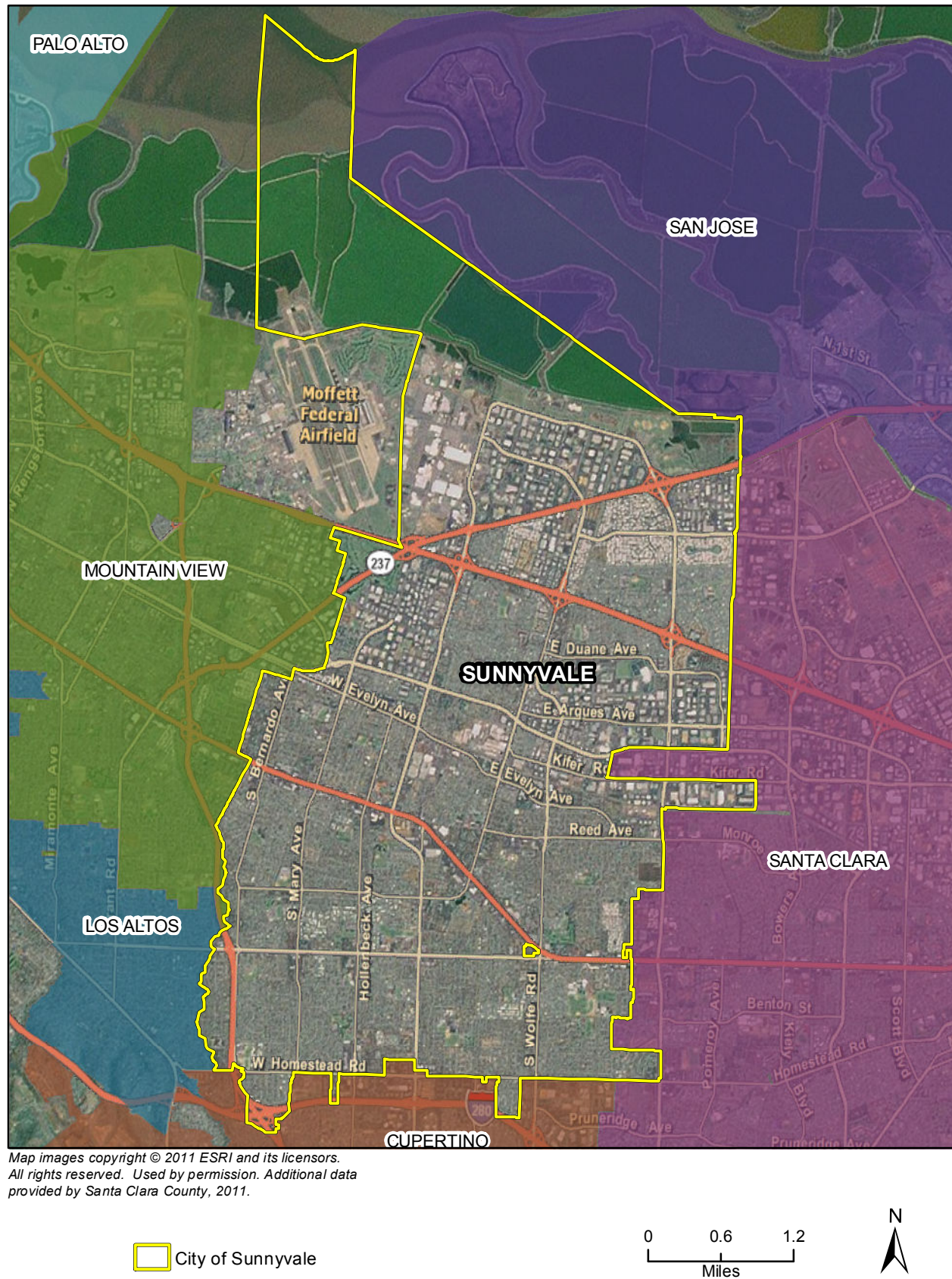


Base map source: US Bureau of the Census TIGER 2000 data.

Regional Location

Figure 2-1





City of Sunnyvale Aerial

Figure 2-2  
City of Sunnyvale

are consumed annually in California (CIWMB, 2007). Conventional single-use plastic bags are a product of the petrochemical industry. It is also claimed that conventional single-use plastic bags are manufactured by independent manufacturers who purchase virgin resin from petrochemical companies or obtain non-virgin resin from recyclers or other sources and that 85% of plastic bags used in the United States are made in the United States (Stephen L. Joseph, July 22, 2010). Their life cycle begins with the conversion of crude oil or natural gas into hydrocarbon monomers, which are then further processed into polymers (Herrera et al, 2008; County of Los Angeles, 2009). These polymers are connected with heat to form plastic resins, which are then blown through tubes to create the air pocket of the bag. Once cooled, the plastic film is stretched to the desired size of the bag and cut into individual bags. Typical single-use plastic bags are approximately five to nine grams in weight, and can be purchased in bulk for approximately two to five cents per bag (AEA Technology, 2009). Single-use plastic bags can be reused by customers and are recyclable. Approximately 5% of single-use plastic bags in California are recycled (US EPA, 2005; Green Cities California MEA, 2010; and Boustead, 2007).

Like plastic grocery shopping bags, single-use paper bags are usually distributed free of charge to customers at grocery stores, and are intended for one use before disposal. However, paper bags are recyclable and can be reused by customers. Approximately 21% of paper bags nationwide are recycled (CIWMB, 2009). Paper grocery bags are typically produced from kraft paper and weigh between 50 and 100 grams, depending on whether or not the bag includes handles (AEA Technology, 2009). These bags can be purchased in bulk for approximately 15 to 25 cents per bag (City of Pasadena, 2008). Kraft paper bags are manufactured from a pulp that is produced by digesting a material into its fibrous constituents via chemical and/or mechanical means (FRIDGE, 2002). Kraft pulp is produced by chemical separation of cellulose from lignin (Environmental Paper Network, 2007). Chemicals used in this process include caustic sodas, sodium hydroxide, sodium sulfide, and chlorine compounds (Environmental Paper Network, 2007). Processed and then dried and shaped into large rolls, the paper is then formed into bags, baled, and then distributed to grocery stores.

Multiple types of single-use biodegradable bags are currently available, distinguished by their material components. Biodegradable bags are composed of thermoplastic starch-based polymers, which are made with at least 90% starch from renewable resources such as corn, potato, tapioca, or wheat, or from polyesters, manufactured from hydrocarbons, or starch-polyester blends (James and Grant, 2005). These bags are approximately the same size and weight as HDPE plastic bags, but are more expensive. They can be purchased in bulk for approximately 12 to 30 cents per bag ([www.ecoproducts.com](http://www.ecoproducts.com), 2009).

Reusable bags can be made from plastic or a variety of cloth such as vinyl or cotton. These bags differ from the single-use bags in their weight and longevity. Built to withstand many uses, they typically cost approximately three dollars wholesale, weigh at least ten times what an HDPE plastic bag weighs and two times what a paper bag weighs, and require greater material consumption on a per bag basis than HDPE plastic bags (ExcelPlas Australia, 2004; City of Pasadena, 2008). Many types of reusable bags are available today. These include: (1) non-woven polypropylene (100% recyclable) ranging from \$1-\$2.50 per bag; (2) cotton canvas bags, which are approximately \$5.00 per bag; (3) bags made from recycled water/soda bottles, which are approximately \$6.00 per bag; (4) polyester and vinyl, which are approximately \$10.00 per bag; and (5) 100% cotton, which are approximately \$10.00 per bag.

The production stages in reusable bag life cycles depend on the materials used. Once used, these bags are reused until worn out through washing or multiple uses, and then typically disposed either in the landfill or recycling facility.

**Sunnyvale Carryout Bag Consumption.** As shown in Table 2-1, based on the statewide data that currently almost 20 billion plastic grocery bags (or approximately 533 bags per person) are consumed annually in California (Green Cities California MEA, 2010; and CIWMB, 2007), retail customers in the City of Sunnyvale currently use about 75 million plastic bags per year. Retail customers in Sunnyvale may include residents of other communities and residents of Sunnyvale may not necessarily be customers of retailers in the City. However, for this analysis, in order to estimate the existing number of plastic bags used per year in Sunnyvale, the statewide data was utilized to apply the number of bags used per person per year rate to the number of residents in Sunnyvale. This estimate is considered reasonable and conservative for the purposes of this analysis.

**Table 2-1**  
**Estimated Single-Use Plastic Bag Use in Sunnyvale**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Population*</b>	<b>Number of Plastic Bags Used per Person**</b>	<b>Total Bags Used Annually</b>
City of Sunnyvale	141,099	533.18	75,231,202
<b>Total</b>			<b>75,231,202</b>

*\* California Department of Finance, "City/County Population and Housing Estimates" (2011).*

*\*\*Based on annual statewide estimates of plastic bag use from the CIWMB (2007) - 533 bags per person = 20 billion bags used statewide per year (CIWMB, 2007) / 37,510,766 people statewide (California's current population according to the State Department of Finance, 2011).*

### **2.3.2 Regulatory Setting**

In 2006, California enacted AB 2449 (Chapter 845, Statutes of 2006), which became effective on July 1, 2007. The statute states that stores providing plastic carryout bags to customers must provide at least one plastic bag collection bin in an accessible location to collect used bags for recycling. The store operator must also make reusable bags available to shoppers for purchase. AB 2449 applies to retail stores of over 10,000 square feet that include a licensed pharmacy and to supermarkets with gross annual sales of \$2 million or more that sell dry groceries, canned goods, nonfood items or perishable goods. Stores are required to maintain records of their AB 2449 compliance and make them available to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) or local jurisdiction.

AB 2449 further requires the manufacturers of plastic carryout bags to develop educational materials to encourage the reducing, reusing, and recycling of plastic carryout bags, and to make the materials available to stores. Manufacturers must also work with stores on their at-store recycling programs to help ensure the proper collection, transportation and recycling of the plastic bags.





Finally, AB 2449 restricts the ability of cities (including charter cities) and counties to regulate single-use plastic grocery bags through imposition of a fee. Public Resources Code Section 42254(b) provides as follows:

*Unless expressly authorized by this chapter, a city, county, or other public agency shall not adopt, implement, or enforce an ordinance, resolution, regulation, or rule to do any of the following:*

- (1) Require a store that is in compliance with this chapter to collect, transport, or recycle plastic carryout bags.*
- (2) Impose a plastic carryout bag fee upon a store that is in compliance with this chapter.*
- (3) Require auditing or reporting requirements that are in addition to what is required by subdivision (d) of Section 42252, upon a store that is in compliance with this chapter.*

AB 2449 expires under its own terms on January 1, 2013, unless extended. There are no other California statutes that directly focus on grocery bags.

## **2.4 PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

The City of Sunnyvale proposes to adopt a Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance that would: (1) prohibit three specified categories of retail establishments in Sunnyvale from providing “single-use plastic carryout bags” to customers at the point of sale; and (2) create a mandatory 15 cent (\$0.15) charge for each paper bag distributed by stores in the city. As defined by the Ordinance (see Appendix D), a “store” means any of the following establishments within the City limits of Sunnyvale:

- (1) A full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of two million dollars (\$2,000,000), or more, that sells a line of dry grocery, canned goods, or nonfood items and some perishable items;
- (2) A store of at least 10,000 square feet of retail space that sells any perishable or non-perishable goods, including, but not limited to, clothing, food, or personal items, and generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law [Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 7200) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code]; or
- (3) A drug store, pharmacy, supermarket, grocery store, convenience food store, foodmart, or other entity engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods that includes milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, including those stores with a Type 20 or 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The intent of the Ordinance is to reduce the environmental impacts related to the use of single-use carryout bags, and to promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags. It is anticipated that

by prohibiting single-use plastic carryout bags and creating a mandatory charge for each paper bag distributed by retailers, the proposed Ordinance would reduce the number of single-use bags consumed within the City while promoting a shift to the use of reusable bags by Sunnyvale retail customers.

Under the proposed Ordinance, single-use plastic carryout bags are defined as bags made from petroleum or bio-based plastic (i.e., bags made with at least 90% starch from renewable resources such as corn, potato, tapioca, or wheat, or from polyesters, manufactured from hydrocarbons, or starch-polyester blends) that are less than 2.25 mils thick. The proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would prohibit retailers from distributing both petroleum and bio-based single-use carryout plastic bags at the point of sale. The proposed Ordinance would not prohibit the distribution of plastic “product bags,” as defined, which include bags without handles provided to a customer to:

- (1) Carry produce, meats, or other food items to the point of sale inside a store;
- (2) Hold prescription medication dispensed from a pharmacy;
- (3) Protect food or merchandise from being damaged or contaminated by other food or merchandise when items are placed together in a reusable bag or recyclable paper carryout bag; or
- (4) Place over articles of clothing on a hanger.

The Ordinance would not apply to stores of less than 10,000 square feet that are not included in one of the three specified categories. It also would not apply to restaurants and other food service providers, thereby continuing to allow these retailers to provide plastic bags to customers for prepared take-out food intended for consumption off of the food provider’s premises.

The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would also impose a mandatory charge on paper carryout bags at Sunnyvale stores covered by the Ordinance. It is anticipated that the mandatory charge would be fifteen cents (\$0.15) per paper bag. This charge would be retained by the affected stores to offset the costs of providing paper bags. The mandatory charge is intended to provide a disincentive to customers to request paper bags when shopping at regulated stores and is intended to promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags by Sunnyvale consumers.

The mandatory charge would bill customers for each paper carryout bag provided by the affected stores. Revenues generated from the charge would be used to compensate the affected stores for increased costs related to compliance with the Ordinance, actual costs associated with providing recyclable paper carryout bags or reusable bags, or costs associated with a store’s educational materials or education campaign encouraging the use of reusable bags. Stores would be required to indicate on the customer receipt the number of paper carryout bags provided and the total amount of the mandatory charge. The stores would be required to report to the Director of Utilities, on a quarterly basis, the total number of recyclable paper carryout bags provided, the total amount of monies collected for providing recyclable paper

carryout bags, and a summary of any efforts a store has undertaken to promote the use of reusable bags by customers in the prior quarter.

The complete Ordinance is contained in Appendix D.

## **2.5 PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The City's objectives for the proposed ordinance include:

- *Reducing the number of single-use plastic bags distributed by retailers and used by customers in Sunnyvale*
- *Detering the use of paper bags by customers in Sunnyvale*
- *Promoting a shift toward the use of reusable carryout bags by retail customers in Sunnyvale*
- *Reducing the environmental impacts related to single-use plastic carryout bags, such as impacts to biological resources (including marine environments), water quality and utilities (solid waste)*
- *Avoiding litter and the associated adverse impacts to stormwater systems, aesthetics and the marine environment (San Francisco Bay)*

## **2.6 REQUIRED APPROVALS and PERMITS**

The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would require an amendment to the Sunnyvale Municipal Code (Section 1, Chapter 5.38) with discretionary approval by the Sunnyvale City Council. The following approvals would be required:

- *Certification of the Final EIR (City Council)*
- *Adoption of an Ordinance amending the Municipal Code (City Council)*

No other agencies have discretionary approval authority over any aspect of the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance.

## **3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

This section provides a general overview of the environmental setting for the proposed ordinance. More detailed descriptions of the environmental setting germane to each environmental issue area can be found in Section 4.0, *Environmental Impact Analysis*.

### **3.1 REGIONAL SETTING**

The City of Sunnyvale is located in Santa Clara County and is approximately 24 square miles in size. The City is bounded to the north by the cities of San Jose and Fremont and Moffett Federal Airfield, to the west by the cities of Mountain View and Los Altos, to the south by the City of Cupertino, and to the east by the City of Santa Clara. Sunnyvale is almost entirely developed, with only 0.5% of parcels currently vacant. Sunnyvale contains a variety of land uses, including residential (single- and multi-family), commercial, industrial, office, and public facilities.

Like most of the San Francisco Bay area, Sunnyvale has a Mediterranean climate, with mild, moist winters and comfortably warm, very dry summers. Average daytime summer temperatures are in the high 70s, and during the winter, average daytime high temperatures rarely stay below 50 °F. Sunnyvale is located within the Santa Clara Basin, which drains directly to San Francisco Bay. The Santa Clara Basin includes the portion of the Bay south of Dumbarton Bridge and the 840-square mile area of wetlands that drains into it (Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative, March 2003). The Basin is comprised of 13 watersheds. Sunnyvale is located within the Sunnyvale East Channel and the Sunnyvale West Channel Watersheds, which are two artificial channels which provide drainage for a large area in Sunnyvale between Calabazas Creek and Stevens Creek (Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative, March 2003).

Sunnyvale has an existing population of 141,099 (California Department of Finance, 2011). These residents are served by four different sources of water supply: local groundwater from eight operating wells, imported Central Valley Project and Delta water from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), Hetch Hetchy, and Sunol Valley water supply from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and recycled water produced at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant for non-potable use. Wastewater draining from indoor sources in Sunnyvale flows through sewer pipes that direct the wastewater to the Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant for treatment before being discharged to the San Francisco Bay.

Sunnyvale is served by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (both light rail and buses) and the Caltrain commuter rail. The SR 85, US 101, SR 237, and I-280 freeways run through the city. A segment of State Route 82 runs through the center of the city, following the path of historic El Camino Real.

Based on existing conditions, the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would apply to approximately 99 retailers in Sunnyvale including 20 large supermarkets and pharmacies (over 10,000 square feet); 15 other large retailers (over 10,000 square feet) such as department stores,

big box stores, and sporting goods stores; and 64 food and beverage stores. Definitions of the store categories are included in Appendix D.

## 3.2 CUMULATIVE PROJECTS SETTING

CEQA defines cumulative impacts as two or more individual actions that, when considered together, are considerable or will compound other environmental impacts. Cumulative impacts are the changes in the environment that result from the incremental impact of development of the proposed project and other nearby projects. For example, traffic impacts of two nearby projects may be insignificant when analyzed separately, but could have a significant impact when analyzed together. Cumulative impact analysis allows the EIR to provide a reasonable forecast of future environmental conditions and can more accurately gauge the effects of a series of projects.

Although CEQA analysis typically lists development projects in the vicinity of a project site, this document analyzes the environmental impacts associated with a proposed ordinance and does not include development or construction activity. As such, the cumulative significance of the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance has been analyzed within the context of other carryout bag ordinances that are approved or pending throughout California. Table 3-1 lists current adopted and pending ordinances in California. These ordinances are considered in the cumulative analyses in Section 4.0, *Environmental Impact Analysis*. As shown in Table 3-1, there are currently 17 adopted, proposed or pending carryout bag ordinances (including the proposed Sunnyvale Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance) located throughout California.

**Table 3-1**  
**Planned and Pending Carryout Bag Ordinances in California**

<b>Ordinance Location</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
City of Berkeley	This ordinance would prohibit retail product stores from making plastic bags available at checkout stands, and would require a mandatory charge of 25 cents on each paper checkout bag. Paper checkout bags would be required to have minimum post consumer recycled content.	On hold
City of Calabasas	This ordinance bans the issuance of plastic carryout bags and imposes a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carryout bags at regulated stores.	Adopted February 2011 Effective July 2011
City of Fairfax	This ordinance allows all stores, shops, eating places, food vendors and retail food vendors, to provide only recyclable paper or reusable bags as checkout bags to customer.	Adopted August 2007 After legal challenge, adopted by voter initiative November 2008
City of Long Beach	This ordinance bans plastic carryout bags at all supermarkets and other grocery stores, pharmacies, drug stores, convenience stores, food marts, and farmers markets and would place a ten	Ordinance adopted and Addendum to the County of Los Angeles Final EIR certified May 2011 Effective August 2011



**Table 3-1  
Planned and Pending Carryout Bag Ordinances in California**

Ordinance Location	Proposed Action	Status
	(10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carryout bags by an affected store, as defined. The ordinance would also require a store to provide or make available to a customer only recyclable paper carryout bags or reusable bags.	
City of Los Angeles	The Los Angeles City Council voted to ban plastic carryout bags in the city's supermarkets and stores by July 2010 -- but only if the state fails to impose a 25-cent fee on every shopper who requests them.	Pending
City of Malibu	This ordinance bans the use of non-compostable and compostable plastic shopping bags for point-of-sale distribution.	Adopted May 2008 Effective November 2009
City of Manhattan Beach	This ordinance bans the distribution of plastic bags at the point-of-sale for all retail establishments in Manhattan Beach.	Adopted July 2008 On hold pending lawsuit
City of Oakland	This ordinance bans the use of plastic bags within the City.	Adopted July 2007 In April 2008, a judge sided with a challenge to the ordinance filed by an industry group
City of Palo Alto	This ordinance bans large grocery stores in Palo Alto from distributing single-use plastic check out bags. Only reusable bags (preferred) or paper bags can be distributed. Single-use plastic bags can still be used in produce and meat departments.	Adopted March 2009 Effective September 2009
City of San Francisco	Retail stores governed by the ordinance can only provide the following types of bags:  a. compostable plastic b. recyclable paper c. reusable bag of any material	Adopted April 2007
City of San Jose	This ordinance prohibits the distribution of single-use carryout paper and plastic bags at the point of sale (i.e., check-out) for all commercial retail businesses in San José except restaurants. An exception is made for "green" paper bags containing at least 40 percent recycled content, accompanied by a charge of 10 cents to the customer, with the charge retained by the retailer.	Adopted January 2011 Effective January 2012
City of Santa Monica	This ordinance: (1) prohibits retail establishments in Santa Monica from providing "single-use plastic carryout bags" to customers at the point of sale; (2) prohibits the free distribution of paper	Adopted January 2011 Effective September 2011



**Table 3-1  
Planned and Pending Carryout Bag Ordinances in California**

<b>Ordinance Location</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
	carryout bags by grocery stores, convenience stores, mini-marts, liquor stores and pharmacies; and (3) requires stores that make paper carryout bags available to sell recycled paper carryout bags to customers for not less than ten cents per bag.	
City of Sunnyvale	This ordinance would prohibit specified retail establishments in Sunnyvale from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale, and would create a mandatory 15 cent (\$0.15) charge for each paper bag distributed by these stores.	Pending environmental review under CEQA
County of Alameda	This ordinance would prohibit the distribution of single-use carryout paper and plastic bags at the point of sale (i.e., check-out) for all commercial retail businesses in Alameda County. Exception would be made for "green" paper bags containing a specified minimum percentage of recycled content, which can only be provided to customers for a nominal charge to cover the cost to the business of providing the bags.	Pending environmental review under CEQA
County of Los Angeles	This ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags and impose a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carryout bags at all supermarkets and other grocery stores, pharmacies, drug stores, convenience stores, and foodmarts, in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The ordinance would require a store to provide or make available to a customer only recyclable paper carryout bags or reusable bags. The ordinance would also encourage a store to educate its staff to promote reusable bags and to post signs encouraging customers to use reusable bags in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles.	Adopted November 2010 Effective July 2011
County of Marin	This ordinance prohibits the distribution of plastic carryout bags and would charge at least \$0.05 for a recycled paper bag.	Adopted January 2011 Effective January 2012
County of Santa Clara	This ordinance allows affected retail establishments to distribute either a 'green' paper bag or a reusable bag. Reusable bags may be given away or sold and are initially defined (until January 2013) as bags made of cloth or other machine washable fabric that has handles; or a durable plastic bag with handles that is at least 2.25 mils thick and is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple	Adopted April 2011 Effective January 2012



**Table 3-1**  
**Planned and Pending Carryout Bag Ordinances in California**

<b>Ordinance Location</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
	use. 'Green' paper bags may be sold to customers for a minimum charge of \$0.15 and are defined as paper bags that are 100% recyclable and are made from 100% recycled material.	

*Source: Californians Against Waste, [http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/plastic\\_campaign/plastic\\_bags/local](http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/plastic_campaign/plastic_bags/local) , accessed July 2011 ; City of San Jose, City of Palo Alto, City of Berkeley, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, City of Malibu, City of Manhattan Beach, City of San Francisco, Marin County, City of Santa Monica, City of Calabasas, Santa Clara County, City of Long Beach Homepages, June 2011.*



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